

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 16621 190404Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DPW-01 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 130804

R 190245Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7202

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16621

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SV

SUBJECT: IOG AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO COMMUNIST AREAS IN
SOUTH VIETNAM

REF : A. STATE 182463

B. SAIGON 8392

C. STATE 166349

D. STATE 182907

1. SEPTEMBER 18 CHARGE' RAISED WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER
DUC QUESTION OF USE OF INDOCHINA OPERATIONS GROUP (IOG) OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AS METHOD
OF PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OR INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS UNICEF TO POPULATION IN
COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND OBSERVED
THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MINISTRY LAST MAY (REF B).
USING POINTS CONTAINED REF A AND REFERRING TO AUGUST 9 LETTER
FROM DUC TO STROH OF IOG (SEPTTEL), CHARGE' EXPLAINED OUR VIEW
THAT CHANNELING OF SUCH AID THROUGH IOG WOULD RUN LEAST DANGER
OF ENHANCING STATUS OF SO-CALLED PRG WHILE GIVING GVN MEANS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 16621 190404Z

TO AVOID ODIUMSPF STANDING IJKAY OF SEEMINGLY WORTHY HUMANIT-

ARIAN PROJECTS. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS SEEM DETERMINED TO ZXD AID TO COMMUNIST AREAS AND THE PROBLEM IS TO OFFER THEM MEANS OF DOING SO WITHOUT RECOGNIZING "PRG".

2. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER DUC GENERALLY REVIEWED ARGUMENTATION IN HIS LETTER TO STROH. STROH HAD WRITTEN HIM CONCERNING A PROJECT TO "TRANSIT" RED CROSS AID VIA SAIGON TO THE "PRG" AREAS. THIS, HE SAID, VIOLATED TWO BASIC PRINCIPLES ON WHICH GVN LEGAL POSITION RESTS:

A. NOTHING MUST BE PERMITTED WHICH WOULD IMPLY RECOGNITION OF THE PRG, AND

B. THE GVN CANNOT RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE AREAS IN VIETNAM CONTAINING POPULATIONS UNDER ANY OTHER AUTHORITY THAN THAT OF THE GVN.

3. ELABORATING ON POINT (B), DUC SAID THAT UNDER THE GENEVA ACCORDS, WHICH WERE NOT ALTERED BUT CONFIRMED BY THE JANUARY 27 PARIS AGREEMENT, SOUTH VIETNAM IS ONE TERRITORY. THERE CANNOT BE ANY OTHER GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN SOUTH VIETNAM EXCEPT THE GVN. THE SO-CALLED PRG AREAS ARE IN FACT ONLY "TROOP STATIONING" ZONES. ONE CANNOT SAY THE PEOPLE IN THEM ARE CONTROLLED BY THE PRG, AND IN ANY CASE THEIR POPULATION IS ONLY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S TOTAL.

4. CHARGE' POINTED OUT THAT THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THESE PRINCIPLES ARE NOT BETTER PROTECTED BY USING NON-POLITICAL IOG INTERMEDIARY THAN BY GIVING DONORS NO OPTION BUT TO DEAL WITH "PRG." DUC THOUGH IOG WOULD RUN INTO SAME PROBLEM OF HAVING TO DEAL WITH "PRG" OR ITS AGENCIES. HE FIRMLY MAINTAINED THAT TO COMPROMISE THE LEGAL PRINCIPLES COULD PROVE FATAL. HE NOTED THAT THE GVN COULD DO NOTHING ABOUT COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SWEDEN, WHO ARE DETERMINED TO RECOGNIZE THE PRG, BUT THE GVN COULD IN ITS POLICIES STAY FAITHFUL TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT. IF ANYBODY CHOSE TO DEAL WITH "PRG" OVEN GVN OBJECTIONS, GVN COULD NOT STOP THEM BUT ALSO CUULD NOT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 16621 190404Z

ACCEPT THEIR ACTION. THIS HE SAID WAS WHY GVN LEFT SENEGAL.

5. WE THEN DEVELOPED THE THOUGHT THAT THE IOG COULD BE ASKED TO AGREE TO ABIDE BY GVN RULES OF OPERATION. DUC ASSENTED AND MADE THE POINT THATIYN DISTRIBUTING HUMANITARIAN AID IN SOUTH VIETNAM THE IOG SHOULD:

(A) MAKE NO DISTINCTION AMONG AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND,

(B) EXTEND ALL AID EITHER THROUGH THE GVN ITSELF OR THROUGH THE GVN RED CROSS. (DUC POINTED OUT THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE NATIONAL RED CROSS IN ONE COUNTRY AND THAT THE PRG RED CROSS IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE ICRC.)

6. WE THEN RAISED THE PRACTICAL PROBLEM OF DISTRIBUTING AID TO PEOPLE IN THE PRG AREAS AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR THE IOG TO DISTRIBUTE AID DIRECTLY WITH ITS OWN STAFF, WITHOUT GOING THROUGH PRG CHANNELS. DUC SAID THIS WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR GVN, BECAUSE THE PRG MIGHT WELCOME IOG PERSONNEL AS TARGETS FOR PROPAGANDA TREATMENT SIMILAR TO THAT DEALT OUT RECENTLY TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. THEY WOULD FIND WAYS TO US IOG TO STAKE OUT BOUNDARIES OF THEIR "STATE."
WE THEN ASKED HOW GVN WOULD REACT IF CERTAIN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES UNDER PRESSURE FROM DOMESTIC OPPOSITION FORCES WERE TO ASK THAT A CERTAIN PORTION OF THEIR AID GO TO THE PRG AREAS. DUC REPLIED HE WAS SURE COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE THE "IMAGINATION" TO FIND WAYS TO DELIVER THEIR AID TO THE PRG, BUT THE GVN COULD NOT HELP THIS AND WOULD HAVE TO STAND BY ITS PRINCIPLES.

7. WE MENTIONED THAT THE US IS CONSIDERING A GRANT TO IOG FOR WORK IN ALL INDOCHINA EXCEPT NORTH VIETNAM, AND READ TO DUC PROTECTIVE CLAUSE CONTAINED PARA 4, REF C. DUC CONSIDERED LANGUAGE CAREFULLY AND AGREED THAT IT WOULD ADEQUATELY PROTECT GVN INTERESTS.

8. CHARGE' ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO INFORM DUC OF OUR PROPOSAL TO LICENSE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC) APPLICATION TO SEND CERTAIN EQUIPMENT TO THE PRG, STRESSING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MENTION OF PRG IN LICENSE AND THAT DELIVERY WOULD BE MADE THROUGH HANOI (REF D). DUC SHRUGGED AND COMMENTED ONLY THAT THE GVN WAS AWARE THAT THE AFSC WAS SENDING AID CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 16621 190404Z

TO THE COMMUNISTS.

9. WE BELIEVE DUC'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD IOG IS DUE IN PART TO STROH'S HAVING IMPLIED IOG HAD OR WOULD SEEK AGREEMENT WITH PRG. WE ALSO HAVE LEARNED THAT SUSPICIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BY IOG REPRESENTATIVE ESSAIED'S HAVING AT LEAST TWICE CONTACTED PRG DELEGATION AT DAVIS STATION. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION AS SHOWN BY DUC'S STATEMENT IN HIS REPLY TO STROH THAT THE GVN "WOULD BE DISPOSED TO DISCUSS" WITH THE IOG THE QUESTION OF OVERALL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT AND USUN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DUC'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO NEW YORK TO EXPLORE THIS WHOLE PROBLEM FURTHER WITH HIM. IN SUM DUC'S MIND IS NOT CLOSED BUT HIS POSITION NOW IS THAT

THERE IS NO NEED TO GIVE AID EXCEPT THROUGH GVN OR ITS
RED CROSS, THAT GOVERNMENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO
DO OTHERWISE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DELIVER AID WITHOUT
DEALING WITH AND THUS RECOGNIZING "PRG", AND THAT IF
THEY WILL NOT HEED GVN OBJECTIONS THEY AT LEAST SHOULD
NOT HAVE GVN'S ACQUIESCENCE.
APPLING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON16621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS APPLING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730924/aaaaarkx.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 182463
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IOG AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO COMMUNIST AREAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM
TAGS: EAID, SV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005